

**A clean environment is
important to all of us!**

Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Untreated storm water and the pollutants it carries, flows directly into creeks, lagoons and the ocean.

In recent years, sources of water pollution, like industrial waters from factories, have been greatly reduced. However, now the majority of water pollution occurs from things like: cars leaking oil; fertilizer from farms, lawns and gardens; failing septic tanks; pet waste; and residential car washing into the storm drains and into the ocean and waterways.

All these sources add up to a pollution problem! But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water and that adds up to **pollution solution!**



Car washing photo is used courtesy of the Water Quality Consortium, a cooperative venture between the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County and the Cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma.

Dead fish photo © BBC News World Edition

*The content is used courtesy
of the City of Carlsbad*



**REMEMBER
ONLY RAIN IN THE STORM DRAIN!**



City of Imperial Beach
Storm Water Protection Program
825 Imperial Beach Boulevard
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

**Storm Water Hotline:
(619) 424-4095**



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Car Washing



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What's the problem with car washing

There's no problem washing your car. It's just how and where you do it.

Most soap contains phosphates and other chemicals that harm fish and water quality. The soap, together with the dirt, metal and oil washed from your car, flows into nearby storm drains which run directly into lakes, rivers or marine waters.

The phosphates from the soap can cause excess algae to grow. Algae looks bad, smells bad, and harms water quality. As algae decays, the process uses up oxygen in the water that fish need.



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How can YOU help keep our environment clean?

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide commercial opportunities, recreation, fish habitat and add beauty to our landscape. YOU can help keep our ocean, creeks and lagoons clean by applying the following tips:

- Use soap sparingly.
- Use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water.
- Pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink when you're done, not in the street.
- Avoid using engine and wheel cleaners or degreasers.



- Take your car to a commercial car wash, especially if you plan to clean the engine or the bottom of your car. Most car washes reuse wash water several times before sending it into the sewer system for treatment.
- Hire only mobile detail operators that will capture wash water and chemicals. It is unlawful for commercial vehicle washing operators to allow wash water to enter the storm drain system.

